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MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

CIA/OCI/WHIZ 740822

CIA/WHSS

1		4		7		10	
2		5		8		11	
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162

ITEM NO: ①

DATE: 22 AUGUST 1974

SUBJECT: PRISONER SWAP REPORTEDLY SET IN LAOS

THE LAO COALITION GOVERNMENT HAS AGREED TO BEGIN THE LONG-
DELAYED EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS-OF-WAR.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NON-COMMUNIST SIDE OF THE JOINT CENTRAL COMMISSION TO IMPLEMENT THE AGREEMENT--THE COALITION AGENCY RESPONSIBLE FOR ARRANGING PRISONER REPATRIATION--TODAY ANNOUNCED THAT THE FIRST EXCHANGE WILL TAKE PLACE ON SEPTEMBER 12.

NO MENTION WAS MADE OF THE NATIONALITIES OF THE PRISONERS TO BE RELEASED, ALTHOUGH IT IS GENERALLY BELIEVED THAT LAO WILL BE AMONG THE FIRST TO BE SET FREE. MORE THAN 100 NORTH VIETNAMESE PRISONERS ARE BELIEVED TO BE HELD BY THE NON-COMMUNIST SIDE.

DATE:
ORIG:
UNIT:
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DOS/DoD review(s) completed.

AUTHENTICATING OFFICER

CLASSIFICATION

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FORM 4C

USE PREVIOUS

SECURITY MESSAGE

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SIGNAL CENTER USE ONLY

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MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP

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SOURCE REF:

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THE PATHET LAO ARE ESTIMATED TO HOLD AT LEAST 600 THAI PRISONERS AND ONE AMERICAN--CIVILIAN CONTRACT PILOT EMMET KAY.

THE CHANCES FOR KAY'S EARLY RELEASE ARE SLIM, HOWEVER, AND THERE HAVE BEEN INDICATIONS THAT THE PATHET LAO WILL TRY TO OBTAIN POLITICAL CONCESSIONS FROM WASHINGTON IN RETURN FOR KAY'S EVENTUAL RELEASE. THE HEAVY PROPAGANDA PLAY IN PATHET LAO MEDIA CALLING FOR A CESSATION OF US AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS OVER LAOS COULD BE THE TYPE OF CONCESSION SAM NEUA IS LOOKING FOR.

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RELEASING OFFICER

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